

**COLORADO**Department of Health Care
Policy & FinancingDepartment of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

AGENCY LETTER

AGENCY LETTER NUMBER: HCPF 15-011**SUPRECEDES NUMBER: HCPF 14-018****DATE: 12/18/2015****DIVISION OR OFFICE: HEALTH INFORMATION OFFICE ELIGIBILITY POLICY
DIVISION****SUBJECT AREA: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY****SUBJECT: 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS****TYPE: I – INFORMATION****APPROVED BY: CHRIS UNDERWOOD**

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Purpose:

The purpose of this agency letter is to advise eligibility sites of the 2016 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Please share this agency letter with all affected Adult and Long-Term Care Medicaid eligibility staff, supervisors, and outside agencies, as appropriate.

Background:

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits will not automatically increase because there will not be a COLA in 2016. The purpose of the COLA is to ensure that the purchasing power of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits is not eroded by inflation. It is based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the last year a COLA was determined to the third quarter of the current year. If there is no increase, there can be no COLA.

Because there will be no COLA for 2016, the 300% income limit, Medicare Part B premium, home equity maximum, minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance maximum and the community spouse resource allowance will remain the same.

However, beginning January 1, 2016, the Medicare Nursing Facility Co-Insurance Rate and the Income Trust Gross Income Limits and Average Nursing Facility Private Pay

Rates will change. Additionally, the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) base amount for residents of Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities will increase by 3% setting the 2016 PNA Base Amount at \$79.57.

Procedure or Information:

Supplemental Security Income Limits

	Effective January 1, 2016
Individual in own home	\$733
Individual in home of another	\$489
Couple in own home	\$1,100
Couple in home of another	\$733
In-kind Support and Maintenance maximum (ISM)	\$264
300% limit	\$2,199
Old Age Pension	\$771

Nursing Facility

Income Trust Gross Income Limits and Average Private Pay Rate

	January 2015	January 2016
Region I Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver and Jefferson	\$8,039	\$8,287
Region II Counties: Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Park, Phillips, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, Weld and Yuma	\$7,286	\$7,781
Region III Counties: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Teller	\$6,828	\$6,930
Region IV Counties: Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Juan and San Miguel	\$6,845	\$7,256
Average Private Pay Rate	\$7,249	\$7,563

Medicare

	January 2015	January 2016
Medicare Part A – Hospital Insurance Seniors and certain individuals under 65 with fewer than 30 work quarters of Medicare covered employment	\$407	\$411
Medicare Part B Physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and other items	\$104.90	\$104.90
Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Co-insurance Days 21 thru 100 each benefit period	\$157.50	\$161

Spousal Protection

	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2016
Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA)	\$119,220	\$119,220
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (Maximum)	\$2,981	\$2,981

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA)	\$1,967	\$1,992
Excess Shelter	\$590	\$598

Home Equity Maximum

	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2016
	\$552,000	\$552,000

Nursing and Intermediate Care Facility Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)

2015 PNA base amount	Adjustment percent	2016 PNA
\$77.25	3%	\$79.57

Effective Date:

January 1, 2016

Contact:

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